28: Spiro--33 [3] (1947-48) 1949 Woleaians
116, 462, 283, 556 Ifalik

"The one ubiquitous activity engaged in by the men is the making of rope. Rope is indispensable for it is the universal fastener. In the absence of nails every object that requires the adhesion of parts requires the use of rope. But rope has other uses as well. One of the important objects used in Ifaluk's inter-atoll trade is rope. Rope forms part of the tribute that Ifaluk pays to Yap. And finally, when a person dies, his corpse is wrapped in an almost fantastically copius amount of rope. Rope, functions both as a crucial element in the subsistence economy, as well as an important factor in the prestige economy, since it is a sign of wealth. A man with little rope is looked down upon. Every man, then, desires to accumulate as much rope as possible, and spends the major part of his productive energies in its manufacture."

28: Spiro--44 [2] (1947-48) 1949 Woleaians
116, 565, 422, 556 Ifalik

"All of this [WPM: see pp. 43-44] indicates a basic economic equality, and the absence of social classes based on wealth. Though the size of taro patches or coconut groves are not equal, these are so abundant that any inequality is unimportant, particularly where land and trees are viewed purely functionally and not as indicators of prestige. In perishable objects, such as canoes, or rope, or lavalavas, some may own more than others, but this inequality is a function of relative diligence, rather than wealth, for all know the techniques of their manufacture, and accumulate many or little as they see fit. Property is desired and respected, but it is not something which, though aspired to by many can be attained by only a few. It is something that any one with the requisite technical abilities can have, since every one creates his own property."